

Amendments to the Specification

On page 5, please amend the <sup>second full</sup>~~fourth~~ paragraph as follows:

C/A  
12/17/09

This is achieved in accordance with the invention by the ~~characterizing features of claim 1~~ a hermetically encapsulated refrigerant compressor comprising a hermetically sealed compressor housing, a piston-cylinder unit disposed in an interior of the housing for compressing a refrigerant and comprising a suction valve with an intake port arranged in a valve plate of the suction valve, and a suction muffler disposed on the cylinder head of the piston-cylinder unit. The suction muffler comprises a filling volume through which the refrigerant flows to the suction valve of the piston-cylinder unit, an inlet cross section through which refrigerant flows into the suction muffler, and a compensating volume in connection with the suction muffler and the interior of the compressor housing and in which the refrigerant oscillates. The inlet cross section is simultaneously a connecting port between the compensating volume and the filling volume, and the compensating volume is formed by an outer tube which tightly encloses the intake port or the inlet cross section and encloses the refrigerant suction pipe at least along a section and is directed into the compressor housing, which suction pipe extends into the interior of the compressor

the intake opening. This ensures that the pressure difference becomes small, leading to a reduction in the flow losses and high noise damping to the outside.

~~According to the characterizing feature of claim 7, the~~ The cross section of the compensating volume can correspond at most to 1.5 times the piston head surface area. This ensures that on the one hand the need for space for the compensating volume will not become too large and on the other hand it is ensured that cold and warm suction gas will not mix or the boundary layer as described below will not form.

On page 8, please amend the <sup>first full</sup> ~~second~~ paragraph as follows:

~~The characterizing features of claim 8, according to which~~  
In a preferred embodiment, the compensating volume has a circular cross section and the ratio of the length of the compensating volume to its diameter is higher than 10, ~~describe a preferred embodiment~~ which leads to especially low flow losses.

CH  
12/12/09